

1   **R277.   Education, Administration.**

2   **R277-601.   Standards for Utah School Buses and Operations.**

3   **R277-601-1.   Definitions.**

4       A.   "Board" means the Utah State Board of Education.

5       B.   "Local board" means the local school board of  
6   education.

7   **R277-601-2.   Authority and Purpose.**

8       A.   This rule is authorized by Utah Constitution Article  
9   X, Section 3 which vests general control and supervision of  
10   the public education in the Board, Section 53A-1-402(1)(d)  
11   which directs the Board to adopt rules for state reimbursed  
12   bus routes, bus safety and operational requirements, and other  
13   transportation needs and Section 53A-1-401(3) which allows the  
14   Board to adopt rules in accordance with its responsibilities.

15       B.   The purpose of this rule is to specify standards for  
16   state student transportation funds, school buses, and school  
17   bus drivers utilized by school districts.

18   **R277-601-3.   Standards.**

19       A.   The local board and school district personnel shall  
20   act consistent with the manual entitled STANDARDS FOR UTAH  
21   SCHOOL BUSES AND OPERATIONS, 1999, which includes information  
22   received from Utah school districts, the Utah Transportation  
23   Commission, and the Utah Department of Public Safety and is  
24   available at each department or agency.

25       B.   STANDARDS FOR UTAH SCHOOL BUSES AND OPERATIONS, 1999,  
26   shall include:

27       (1) Electronic and telecommunications devices

28       (a) A school bus operator's primary responsibility,  
29   consistent with training and policy, is the safety of  
30   passengers and the safety of the public at all times.

31       (b) A school bus operator shall not use a cell phone,  
32   wireless electronic device, or any headset, earpiece,  
33   earphones or other equipment that might distract a driver from  
34   his responsibilities, whether hand held or not, while the  
35   school bus is in motion and not appropriately parked or

36 secured. This prohibition does not apply to the safe and  
37 appropriate use of two-way radios. All school districts and  
38 public schools that regularly transport students shall  
39 maintain documentation of training for bus drivers and  
40 employees in the safe and appropriate use of two-way radios.

41 (c) Once the bus is stopped and safely parked, a school  
42 bus operator may use an electronic device for emergencies, to  
43 assist special needs students, for behavior management, for  
44 appropriate assistance for field/activity trips or for other  
45 business-related issues.

46 (d) A school bus operator may use an electronic device  
47 for personal use once a school bus is safely parked,  
48 appropriately secured and all passengers are safely off and at  
49 a safe distance from the bus, consistent with school district  
50 policy.

51 (e) Any violation of these provisions for emergency or  
52 compelling reasons may require documentation and will be  
53 addressed by the employing education entity.

54 (f) Violations of these provisions may result in  
55 personnel action(s) against the school bus operator consistent  
56 with school district/employer policies.

57 (g) Private contractors employed by school districts for  
58 student transportation shall also adhere strictly to these  
59 provisions in addition to the policies of the employer.

60 (2) End of bus route inspection

61 (a) At the end of a student delivery, both during the day  
62 and after the final route of the day, a school bus operator  
63 shall complete the delivery, stop and park the bus, and insure  
64 that all students are off the bus.

65 (b) Where possible, this inspection shall be completed at  
66 each school site when delivering students to school.

67 (c) Following each from-school route of the day, the bus  
68 operator shall complete the same type of inspection at a safe  
69 location a short distance from where the final student(s) left  
70 the bus. If children are found on the bus, they shall be  
71 immediately returned to their assigned bus stop location or to  
72 an alternate location, consistent with district policy, with

73 express permission from the parents(s).

74 **KEY: school, buses, school transportation**

75 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: 2009**

76 **Notice of Continuation: February 13, 2009**

77 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 53A-1-**  
78 **402(1)(d); 53A-1-401(3)**